

8:30 a.m., Friday, January 20, 2023
State Highway Commission Meeting Minutes

On Friday, January 20, 2023, the Nebraska State Highway Commission convened at NDOT Headquarters located at 1500 Nebraska Parkway in Lincoln, Nebraska. The agenda, a recording of meeting, attendance sheets, and handouts relevant to the business of this meeting are a part of the permanent minutes of record and are on file at NDOT Central Headquarters. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act (Statutes 84-1407 to 84-1414) was posted in the meeting room.

MEETING NOTICE

- Notice of the regularly scheduled meeting, including the time, location, and agenda, was advertised on the Department of Transportation and the State of Nebraska's websites no less than ten days prior to the meeting.
- The agenda was emailed or mailed to commission members, NDOT staff, and interested persons no less than ten days prior to the meeting.
- A media release was emailed to all statewide outlets on January 13, 2023.
- The meeting agenda was kept current and available to the public in the Communication Division of the Nebraska Department of Transportation, 1500 Nebraska Parkway, Lincoln, Nebraska. No changes were made to the agenda within 48 hours prior to commencement.
- Copies of the meeting agenda were posted and available to the public at the entrance to the meeting room.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| • Commissioner Mary K. Gerdes | District 1 |
| • Commissioner | Vacant |
| • Commissioner David Copple | District 3 |
| • Commissioner James H. Kindig | District 4 |
| • Commissioner Doug Leafgreen | District 5 |
| • Commissioner Jim Hawks | District 6 |
| • Commissioner Greg Wolford | District 7 |
| • Commissioner Jerome Fagerland | District 8 |
| • Director Moe Jamshidi | Interim Director |

Sarah Soula, NDOT External Affairs Manager, was recording. A transcript of the meeting is available upon request. Nebraska State Highway Commission meetings are conducted in compliance with the statutes of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

CALL TO ORDER

- Commissioner Copple called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
- The Chair requested an attendance roll call. A quorum was present.

MINUTES

- Approval of October 21, 2022, meeting minutes – this meeting was cancelled
 - Motion for approval made by Wolford; Fagerland seconded.
 - Motion carried by rollcall vote, 7-0

INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- No introductions or announcements.

MEETING BUSINESS

- **Director's Remarks**
Moe Jamshidi, Deputy Director of Operations
 - New Governor – Jim Pillen
 - New Director of NDOT – Vicki Kramer, Vicki was the former NDOT Communications and Public Policy Director. We're excited to have her back.
 - State of the State Speaking – 01/25/2023
 - New Bills introduced by NDOT
 - LB453 – Aeronautics Cost/State Highway Trust Fund Access
 - Bill will help with:
 - Engagement with Aeronautics
 - Firewall between – no help – budgeting
 - No investment – help fund
 - LB226 – Amendment for Construction Manager – General Contractor (CMCG)
 - Streamlines Alternative Delivery
 - One-stop Process
 - LB66 - ATV and UTV to be used on the state highway
 - Closed for safety reasons
 - LB124 and 449– County Bridge Match Program
 - One provides funding one allows this program to be extended
 - Possible Combing
 - New bills that involve NDOT and would provide guidance/advance on some of the projects
 - LB212 and 454 - These are designed to prioritize expressway 75 and 81
 - Provide some funding – preliminary, design etc.
 - 75 – NE City to the Boarder
 - 81 – information will be given down the road
 - LB706 - Provides the opportunity to bond up to \$450 million for highway work
 - LB645 - Requires that DOT no longer prioritize taking care of the assets we have first before building others, require the DOT to identify how much revenues we get from each of the eight districts
 - After knowing how much revenue each district that DOT gets - would need to spend 90% of that revenue in that district
 - Storm Update:

- 2 major storms
- D1 and D2 – sent out to D7 and D8 to help out
- Moving Equipment around to fill the gaps
- Capitol Improvement Project Updates
 - Lincoln South Beltway is open
- Snowplow Naming
 - This has been a big win NDOT.
 - The program involves local schools across the state. We had a lot of naming submittals come in. This month the winners were announced, and prizes awarded.
- Buckle-Up; Phone Down Importance
- Questions/Comments
 - LB645- What is NDOT's position on this?
 - Will provide the facts of how a network of highways must be managed as a network not as a district, we will provide all the facts
 - How long is the Legislative Session?
 - This year is a long session, 90 days
 - Storm/Snow Removal Assistance
 - We're doing what we can with the resources available. Districts are sharing equipment and plow drivers.
 - LB66 – This would allow ATV/UTV on highways?
 - Currently they're allowed to cross the highways but not drive on them
 - These vehicles are not designed for pavement
 - Safety Concern (statistical and owning company/manufacture data)
 - Alternative – ditch driving?
 - Trail or Side Street for these vehicles?
- **2023-24 Highway Commission Meetings Calendar**
Sarah Soula, External Affairs Manager
 - Calendar 2023 - Approved (Dates and Locations)
 - Calendar 2024 - is Tentative – Dates Approved
- **Election of 2023 Commission Chair and Vice Chair**
Sarah Soula, External Affairs Manager
 - 2023 Chair – David, Copple (Republican, D3)
 - 2023 Vice Chair – James, Kindig (Democrat, D4)
- **US-81 Corridor Update**
Dawn Knott, Project Studies Engineer
 - US-81 York to Columbus Expressway
 - Update 2022
 - Project study overview
 - 40+ Mile corridor
 - Multiple communities/High stakeholder interest
 - 2+2 Configuration
 - Minimize crossovers
 - 3-lane urban sections thru communities
 - Alignment alternatives and preliminary design

- Environment requirements /Permitting (including environment assessment)
- Selection of Preferred Alternative
- Challenges/Considerations
 - Challenges
 - Multiple cities, Multiple highway junctions, Transitions, Multiple access point, School, Hydraulics, FEMA floodway, 23 streams/rivers, Phasing
 - Potential conflicts
 - Electrical substation, Hog operation, Pivots, Farming operations, Homes and buildings, Irrigation wells adjacent to ROW
- Alternative alignment designs for US-81/N-92
 - Conduct Alternatives analysis
 - Minimize impacts while maximizing traffic operations
 - T-Intersection, Sweeping Curve, Roundabout
- Transitions to Urban 3-lane Sections
 - Standard tapers per design criteria
 - Speed transition from expressway speed to urban
 - Minimize impacts
 - Some items to be considered
 - Floodway/floodplain
 - Drainage issues
 - Adjacent properties and businesses
 - Private golf course (Osceola)
 - Campground and park (Stromsburg)
- Rural Accesses
 - Provide access to all properties
 - Limit number of access points to the highway for safety
 - Minimize median breaks for safety and reduce costs
 - Minimize frontage roads to reduce costs
 - Types of access
 - Median break
 - Right in / Right out
- Current construction project – In Stromsburg
 - Existing 2 lane section with some curb and sidewalk
 - New 3-lane urban section with curb, gutter, storm sewer and sidewalk
 - Includes resurfacing from N of Stromsburg to the W junction of US-81 and N-92
 - To be constructed in 2023-24
 - Similar 3-lane urban sections will be constructed in Osceola and Shelby
- Consultant design and environmental team
 - Benesch – Lead Consultant along with HDR and Felsburg, Holt, and Ullevig

- **NEVI Update**
- **Ryan Huff, Chief Strategy Officer**
 - Article headliners to note:
 - Biden Administration touts \$1.2 Billion Sent to Nebraska Via Infrastructure Law
 - Nebraska gets \$30 Million to enhance electric vehicle charging network
 - Biden-Harris Administration Announces Approval of First 35 State Plans to Build Out EV Charging Infrastructure Across 53,000 Miles of Highways
 - Program purpose:
 - The BILL establishes a National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program (NEVI Formula) to provide funding to States to strategically deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and to establish an interconnected network to facilitate data collection, access, and reliability
 - NDOT
 - Formula funds
 - \$6 million/year
 - 5 years
 - 80/20 program
 - Program requirements
 - Build on “Alternative Fuel Corridors” (AFCs) first
 - “A national network of alternative fueling and charging infrastructure along national highway system corridors)
 - Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging; Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG); Compressed Natural Gas (CNG); Liquid Natural Gas (LNG); Hydrogen
 - DC Fast Chargers
 - Four 150 KW DC Fast Charger; Simultaneous Charging (600 kW)
 - Every 50 miles, within in 1 mile
 - Must be publicly accessible
 - Equity
 - Executive order 14008 made a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution
 - Must have a plan – updated yearly
 - Plan Overview
 - Identify program framework elements; Map current locations/Future conditions; Identify/select locations; Program evaluation current conditions by district
 - Stats
 - D1 – Plug-in Hybrid: 392; Full Electric: 632
 - D2 – Plug-in Hybrid: 851; Full Electric: 1652
 - D3 – Plug-in Hybrid: 71; Full Electric: 56
 - D4 – Plug-in Hybrid: 92; Full Electric: 138
 - D5 – Plug-in Hybrid: 31; Full Electric: 31

- D6 – Plug-in Hybrid: 30; Full Electric: 24
 - D7 – Plug-in Hybrid: 13; Full Electric: 16
 - D8 – Plug-in Hybrid: 3; Full Electric: 10
 - Total: Plug-in Hybrid: 1,483; Full Electric: 2,559
- Gaps
 - Kimball; Sidney; Big Springs; Gothenburg; Kearny; York; Omaha
- Gas stations
 - No business model for gas stations in NE
 - Private Sector – would help facilitate the operations of the electric stations
- Draft program framework
 - Prepare List of Locations and Develop a Program Charter/Process > Solicit Proposals/Bids > Review Proposals and Awards > (Execute Agreement) > Location Construction > Project Monitoring
- Scoring Criteria:
 - Location
 - Power?
 - Nearby activities?
 - Money
 - How much?
 - 20% you or us?
 - Manpower
 - Availability to operate and maintain
 - Staff to service
 - Entertainment
 - Things to do around the area while one is charging their vehicle(s)
 - Food, shopping, park etc.
- 2023 Plan and program updates
 - Program Charter
 - Procurement requirement/roles
 - Addressing Justice40 Initiative
 - Addressing NEPA
 - Device data collection/reporting
 - Program Update Steps
 - Application review process
 - Scoring criteria
 - Payment opinions/process
 - Covered items, commissioning, payment timing
 - Put program into action
 - Develop RFP/TB content/distribution
 - Initial RFP/ITB evaluation process
 - Update Statewide Plan
 - Update to include new program details
 - Iterate using stakeholder feedback
 - Proposed schedule:

- Initiation: DEC 2022-FEB 2023
- Application process: JAN 2023-APR 2023
- RFP/NOFO/ITB: MAY 2022-AUG 2023
- Update plan: SEPT 2023-DEC 202

PUBLIC INPUT

- **David Anderson – Odell Nebraska**

- Project #12444 STPD-8-6 (113), Odell East and West, is in dire need of implementation. The emergency overlay patch on “Dead Man’s Curve” east of Odell in 2022, addressed only a small part of the immediate problems presenting eminent danger to the motoring public on Nebraska Highway 8 and 112. The remainder of “Dead Man’s Curve” is extremely dangerous and the remainder of the project is deeply rutted and rough with wash board.
- An immediate “low cost” remedial action would be to lower the speed limit past Odell and to enforce it. All motorists, but especially truckers “put the pedal to the metal” on the flat one-and-a-half-mile stretch passing Odell. Diller- Odell School, located in Odell has many new young drivers who have endured many close calls due to excessive speeding on the Highway 8 and 112. In addition to the school and typical small community traffic, Odell has a large Farmer’s Cooperative grain elevator/anhydrous fertilizer location adjacent to the highway adding large volumes of heavy and dangerous traffic to the traffic mix.
- A Gage County Highway Department traffic study done in October 2019 showed that an average of 953 vehicles a day passed intersection of Main Street and Highway 8 and/or SW 61st 6 Road and Highway. I believe a village board resolution (resolution input below)
- Finally, as stated in the resolution (see attached), given the volume of traffic on both the state highway and the two exits into Odell, I would strongly recommend turn lanes be added to both the Main Street and the Gage County Blacktop names SW 61st St Odell Road.
- Served 16 years on the Gage County Board of Supervisors, 11 as Chairman of the board, 5 as Road and Bridge Committee Chairman, and Past President of the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO)
- Safety improvements – Intersections of State Highway 8/112 and the Village of Odell’s Main Street, also County Blacktop SW 61st Odell Road on the Southwest Corner of Odell.
- Suggestions
 - Lower speed limit on Highway 8/112 past the Village
 - Add a turn lane for Main Street and SW 61st Odell Road
 - Add a turn lane at the intersection of Highway 136 and County Blacktop SW 61st Street Odell Road – 12 miles north of Odell
- Received all information from NDOT – Analysis is being worked on (draft copy) thoughts and comments will be sent the week following the meeting
- Preliminary process/in the works

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

- Thanked John Selmer for this services and dedication to NDOT
 - Completion of the South Beltway
- Safety
 - 2022 – Highest death toll since 2009 with 254
 - 2007 – Death toll in 2077 was 256
- Report on seatbelt and phone usage in NE
 - Came out as highest non-used rate in the US
- Buckle-Up Phone Down – Keep utilizing this
- Vicki Kramer – New director will be introduced at the next meeting

PUBLIC MEETINGS CALENDAR

- NDOT will hold a pre-construction public meeting for the 23rd Street, Columbus Project on February 9, 2023, at American Legion 2263 3rd Ave in Columbus, NE.
- The next scheduled highway commission meeting is March 24, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in the State Operations Center, located at 4425 S 108th St in Omaha, Nebraska

ADJOURNMENT

- The chair adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.